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Mill Valley, Cal. 94941

July 29, 1975

The Director
Biotechnology Resources Branch
Division of Research Resources
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20014

Dear Sir:

I am preparing material for a course on artificial intelligence in medicine, to be given at the University of California, Berkeley during the coming academic year. Part of the course will deal with the history and current developments in the area. Accordingly, I would like to have a complete list of projects in the area of AIM which have received federal support.

In addition, I would like to know in detail how one of these projects — SUMEX, at Stanford University — met its charter obligations when it refused access to its computer facility upon being petitioned for access by the Naval Regional Medical Center at Oakland, California, for trials of its AIM program for hypertension analysis/treatment.

The brochure entitled SUMEX-AIM says that the project's goals are to "encourage applications of artificial intelligence in medicine" and the "technical demonstration of a nationally shared technological resource for health research." How then is it possible that this resource is being used for the study of organic compounds (chemistry) and protein structure — two subjects at best ancillary to AIM — while an actual AIM project is excluded?

I am interested not only in your answer to this question, but also in whatever documented decisions came into play in this particular exclusion.

Sincerely,



Dr Robert M. Baer

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